



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.2413 | FAX (517) 373.5144  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/allen/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/allen/)

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Contact: Jeremy Hendges  
(866) 525-5637

## Allen: Increase Agricultural Renaissance Zones for State Farmers

*Co-sponsored SB 163 considered by the Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism Committee*

LANSING – Senator Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, today testified in the Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism Committee on legislation he co-sponsored that would create ten additional Agricultural Renaissance Zones.

“Doubling the number of Agricultural Renaissance Zones will bring new opportunities for production and growth of Michigan’s second largest industry,” Allen said. “The additional zones also have great potential to stimulate our local and state economy. In this time of economic strife, the zones create a win-win situation for Michigan farmers and families.”

Senate Bill 163 would increase the number of Agricultural Renaissance Zones available to twenty. The zones provide a tax incentive for new agricultural developments.

“In order to preserve our farmland in northern Michigan, we need to promote creative ways to expand value added agriculture. By expanding the Agricultural Renaissance Zone program we are able to provide the tools to our agricultural community to help them grow and thrive,” Allen said.

Tom Rochford of Cherry Growers, Inc., located in Traverse City, joined Senator Allen in testifying in support of SB 163.

The committee will be taking additional testimony on Senate Bill 163 on Thurs., Mar. 13.

**NOTE: Audio comments from Senator Allen on Senate Bill 163 are available on the Michigan Senate Hotline at (517) 373-4000 or online at the Michigan Senate Republican Audiowire, located at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/>.**